AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system for improving formatting consistency within a document comprising:

a formatting consistency checker operative for storing a formatting run in association with the location of the formatting run within a document, wherein the formatting run is the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes; and

a format checker operative to retrieve run location data from the format consistency checker, to determine a minority formatting instance, and to report a formatting inconsistency to a user.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the formatting consistency checker comprises a data table to receive a formatting run in association with the location of the formatting run within a document.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the formatting run comprises text within the document sharing one or more similar formatting properties.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the format checker is further operative to provide the user with an opportunity to modify the formatting inconsistency.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the format checker is further operative to visually identify a formatting inconsistency to the user.

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6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the format checker comprises a set of consistency rules to compare run location data to and to determine a minority inconsistency.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a formatting pane operative to display a log of all formatting within a document, to display a formatting instance provided by the format checker, and to provide an interface for a user to select a particular formatting instance provided by the format checker.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to modify the formatting of all formatting instances within the document in response to a user entry to the formatting pane.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to create a new style or set of formatting parameters within a style corresponding to a user selection of a particular formatting instance in the formatting pane.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to change a set of formatting parameters to a previously defined style in response to a user entry to the formatting pane.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to modify formatting runs of a selected formatting pane, and to create a new style having the set of formatting properties corresponding to the modified formatting runs.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the formatting pane further comprises a submenu operative to remove a style from a document and to revert to runs previously associated with the deleted style, and further operative to remove a user's entry in the formatting pane and any formatting associated with the entry that has been applied to one or more formatting runs within the document.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a bullets and numbering component operative to receive a user addition of bullets and/or numbering to the document, to determine whether other instances of bulleting and/or numbering exist in the document, and to identify a majority case of prior instances of bulleting and/or numbering within the document.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein the bullets and numbering component is further operative for applying the majority case of bulleting and/or numbering to the user addition of bullets and/or numbering in the document.

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15. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein the bullets and numbering component is further operative for applying a predefined default format of bulleting and/or numbering to the user addition of bullets and/or numbering in the document.

16. (Currently amended) A system for checking format consistency in a document, comprising:

a format consistency checker operative to store a formatting run in association with the location of the formatting run within a document, wherein the formatting run comprises the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes;

a formatting pane in communication with the format consistency checker, operative to provide an accessible log of all formatting within the document, and further operative to provide a user interface for a user to input a format selection to the document;

a format checker in communication with the format consistency checker, operative to retrieve run location data from the format consistency checker to determine a minority case of formatting within the document, and further operative to display the minority case to the user; and

a bullets and numbering component in communication with the format consistency checker, operative to determine a majority case for bullets and/or numbering formatting previously applied in the document, and further operative to display the majority case of bullets and/or numbering formatting to the user.

17. (Currently amended) A method for improving formatting consistency within a document comprising the steps of:

determining a formatting run within a document, wherein the formatting run comprises the smallest section of text within the document having the same formatting attributes;

comparing the formatting run to a consistency rule set; and

determining whether an inconsistency with the consistency rule set exists.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~16~~ 17 further comprising the steps of:

in response to determining that an inconsistency exists,

identifying a minority case or a majority case.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

revealing the minority case or majority case to a user; and

offering a suggested case format to the user.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the suggested case format is accepted by the user;

in response to determining that the suggested case format is accepted,

reformatting the minority case to the suggested case format.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the suggested case format is the majority case.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the majority case comprises a set of formatting properties that is associated with the most formatting runs in the document having an analogous formatting property.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the minority case comprises a set of formatting properties that is inconsistent with the majority case as the inconsistency is defined by the consistency rule set.

25-27. (Cancelled)